

# Protecting Vietnam's Sovereignty Over Sea And Islands – From The View Of Ho Chi Minh

---

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Hiep<sup>1</sup>, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pham Ngoc Tram<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Thu Dau Mot University (TDMU), Binh Duong, Vietnam

E-mail: [hiepnv@tdmu.edu.vn](mailto:hiepnv@tdmu.edu.vn)<sup>1</sup>, [trampn@tdmu.edu.vn](mailto:trampn@tdmu.edu.vn)<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** *Research on the protection of sea and island sovereignty according to Ho Chi Minh-style ideology is an issue that is of particular concern to the political and scientific circles at home and abroad because the dispute over sovereignty over the sea and islands in the South China Sea is increasingly complicated and drastic.*

*The article has focused on reflecting the issues of sea and island sovereignty protection - from the perspective of Ho Chi Minh; affirming Vietnam's stance: independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity are sacred inalienable rights.*

*The issue of protecting sovereignty in general, sovereignty of sea and islands in particular according to Ho Chi Minh is to uphold the above constant principle with the motto, and flexible method; with morality and style of President Ho Chi Minh: for the sake of the nation, conscientious, lifelong for the people for the country.*

**Keywords:** *Ho Chi Minh, sovereignty protection, sea and islands*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ideology, methodology, morality and style of President Ho Chi Minh are invaluable legacies that have helped Vietnam overcome the challenge of bringing the country to development of a rich and powerful nation, firmly defending national independence in general, sea and island sovereignty in particular.

In the scope of this study, the author focuses on issues of protecting sovereignty over islands from Ho Chi Minh's perspective, with the following contents: Ho Chi Minh's perspective on sovereignty, protecting sovereignty over islands; Ho Chi Minh's method, ethical style and behavioral arts; and apply Ho Chi Minh's ideology to the defense of sea and island sovereignty.

The problem approach is based on Marxism methodology and Ho Chi Minh thought. However, in fact, articles reflecting Ho Chi Minh's ideology related to sovereignty and sovereignty protection are quite modest, but mostly expressed through actions. Therefore, through the evolution of historical events, the author summarizes Ho Chi Minh's views on sovereignty and sovereignty protection of islands.

## 2. LITERATURE SURVEY

From the 80s of the 20th century up to now, research on the South China Sea has been intensified in Vietnam, typically the works to *Protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands of Vietnam* by Nguyen Thai Anh (editor), The Times Publishing House, 2011; *Overlooking the*

sea by Ha Minh Hong and Tran Nam Tien (co-eds), Ho Chi Minh City Publishing House, 2012; *The 1982 Convention of the Sea and Vietnam's Marine Strategy* by author Nguyen Hong Thao (editor), National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2008; *Spratly Islands - Paracel Islands Vietnamese territory viewed from the international law* of Nguyen Q. Thang, published by the Intellectual Publishing House in 2008; Ho Bach Thao with the article of *China's Territorial Sea under the Ming Dynasty* (Ho Bach Thao, 2020)...

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1979), *The Truth about the Vietnam - China Relations in the Past 30 Years*, The Truth, Hanoi. Luu Van Loi, *The Vietnam - China dispute over the Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands archipelagos, the People's Public Security Forces*, Hanoi, 1995. Many authors (2010), *Issues related to sovereignty over the sea and islands of Vietnam in the the South China Sea*, National Border Committee, Hanoi. Many authors (1974), *Specialties on Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands*, History Geography, Saigon, Vietnam. Institute of Science and Technology (2009), *the South China Sea*, (Volume 1 overview of the South China Sea), Science and Technology, Hanoi.

On the Chinese side, since 1988, Han Chan Hoa has edited the *Nam Hai Cross-section of the border history islands*, synthesized the ancient historical records about the Tay Sa and Nam Sa. The work is the result of cooperation of more than 20 institutions, research units, academies, universities, libraries and many Hainan administrative agencies. The booklet has cited 17,000 documents to claim China's sovereignty over the two archipelagos of Xisha and Nansha. Although the work has gathered a huge amount of material, they quote everything they have found, most notably those recorded by astronauts, recorded by explorers and in many cases, they have arbitrarily rearranged.

After China enacted the *Law on Territorial Sea and Contiguous Area* of the People's Republic of China, on February 25, 1992, there were a series of research and strategic works on the South China Sea (the South China Sea) of China. Chinese researchers, reflecting the stances of the disputed or non-disputing parties in the South China Sea, the South China Sea policy development trends of Southeast Asian countries, the role and influence of the United States and the other third countries in the South China Sea disputes, and some South China Sea disputes.

Among the studies on the South China Sea are the works of Monique Chemillier - Gendreau - Professor of public law and political science at the University of Paris-VII-Denis Diderot, President of the European Lawyers Association - *President rights over the Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands archipelagos*, published by the National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, in 1997.

Most of the above-mentioned studies, on the one hand, reflect the stances of the claimants, and on the other hand have mentioned the role and strategic thinking of the US on the South China Sea. This study has inheritance of the above works; at the same time standing on Vietnam's stance to assert Vietnam's sovereignty over the two archipelagos of Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands, maintain peace, stability, cooperation and development in the South China Sea; propose directions to bring the South China Sea subject to teaching at Vietnamese university level.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is qualitative analysis and explanatory research. The analysis process was carried out by using historical information and with historical and dialectical materialism methods.

#### **4. RESEARCH RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS**

##### **1. Ho Chi Minh's viewpoint on sovereignty and sovereignty protection of islands**

The Ho Chi Minh era was the era of success in successive democratic revolutions, national sovereignty belonged to the people. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam formed after the August Revolution (1945) affirmed Vietnam's national sovereignty as the right to be an independent and complete ownership in all aspects of the legislature, executive and judiciary of a country within the territory and demonstrating its sovereignty in all aspects of economy, politics, military, diplomacy; was consistent with basic principles of international law (Charter of the United Nations, 1945).

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Vietnam was invaded by the French colonialists, the nation's liberation struggle, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh is to regain national sovereignty - this is also the core issue of national history - "Fatherland first", "Nation first", "There is nothing more precious than independence and freedom".

Ho Chi Minh's view of sovereignty and sovereignty protection stems from the traditional view of Vietnam that always emphasizes sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity, upholds the vital interests of the nation. He said, "Freedom for my fellow countrymen, independence for my Motherland, is all that I wanted. That's all that I understood" (Tran, 1994:44). In the process of leading the national liberation revolution, he always raised the flag of national independence, defended sovereignty and territorial integrity, placed the interests of the nation and the nation first.

To protect the sacred sovereignty of the country, Ho Chi Minh showed a unique style and principles of conduct in relations with other countries. Ho Chi Minh's foreign approach and style serves the goal of national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The characteristic feature of Ho Chi Minh's foreign art with big countries, especially China, is the clever and flexible application between "toughness" and "flexibility"; always shows cleverness, "know oneself is true progress", realizes real national independence, a peaceful country, no longer depends. His ideology and ethical style expresses the cultural identity of the nation, is a culture of behavior, both taking advantage and coping with the social environment for the sake of the country's existence.

Vietnam is a country with an important geopolitical and economic position in the region. In order to protect the country's sovereignty in each historical period, the relationship between Vietnam and neighboring countries has not always been peaceful and smooth. Ho Chi Minh's mindset has always been proactive in being peaceable with the enemy, eradicating hatred as friends, rejoining the past towards the future, reestablishing peaceful and friendly relations, removing hatred that is harmful to life and development of the country. This is not only Ho Chi Minh's method and foreign art to protect the sovereignty of the country, but also his style and morality.

After the successful August Revolution (1945), the country faced a series of difficulties, challenges and against enemies, the young Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and President Ho Chi Minh directed implement the strategy of "draw to attack" ("hòa để tiến") to differentiate the enemy, take advantage of more time to consolidate forces to prepare for the long war of resistance, to protect the sovereignty "draw to attack" is not only strategy, but the art and foreign policy of daring and correct in the moment of being in the position of "hung by a single hair", further highlighting President Ho Chi Minh's thought, ethical style and genius on the protection of national sovereignty. From the principle of "firm in objectives, flexible in strategies and tactics", "putting national interests first" and the motto

"make your enemy your friend" have all become classic lessons about Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical style are still valid up to now.

Please also note that Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical methods shown in words and articles are very modest. His moral style thought is largely expressed through actions. Let us try to analyze Ho Chi Minh's lesson "draw to attack" in the period of 1945 - 1946. I think it will draw useful problems and apply it to the current sovereignty protection.

Detente was the main thought of Ho Chi Minh in his strategy to cope with the complicated situation of Vietnam at that time with a series of mixed issues from politics, economy, society, to security and defense; from the "Tau Tuong" kidnapping and extortion to opening the popular education class, from the rice bowl to save the hunger to the battlefield logistics; in which, the highlight was the confrontation with three kinds of enemies: hunger, ignorance and foreign aggression.

In terms of time, although it was only two years (1945-1946), this was an extremely exciting period, with a series of issues, events took place very quickly and it seemed that any problem was important. because they directly threaten the independence and sovereignty of the newly established people's democracy, such as: strengthening the government apparatus; expanding block of great national unity; law building; building army and police force; hunger relief; economic development; fight against ignorance; the resistance war against French colonialism in the South; reconcile with Chiang Kai-shek; diplomatic negotiations with France ... in which, there are many seemingly contradictory issues. Why did we both "fight France" and negotiate with France? Even when the people of the South, surrounded by sticks and spears, did not allow the French colonialists to expand their occupation in the south, would President Ho Chi Minh be a guest of honour of France?

If based on the practical situation, it is easy to see that the "variety" and "confusion" is difficult to distinguish which is the nature of the problem. But with the ideology, ethical style and sharpness in each situation, Ho Chi Minh has set out very specific and flexible goals. Based on the dialectical movement of each process, he has appropriate and satisfactory handling strategies to win. According to Ho Chi Minh, in any revolution or every revolutionary situation, it is always faced with a fairly common law, the rule of "prosperity - failure", "thriving - death", "gain - loss". Therefore, when the force correlation does not allow us to be able to win the enemy immediately, but the enemy wants us to fight, if we accept the combat as completely unfavorable, then in this case it would be wise to The most important is the postponement. If we have made concessions and the enemy continues to step in, forcing to "upgrade" the postponement strategy to one level then reach a compromise. Compromise in this active situation is necessary, "will avoid the blow to the revolution the enemy is aiming at, firmly preserve the revolutionary force, in order to achieve the intended goal. Thus, in a certain sense, compromise is also a specific form of struggle that the revolutionary must know how to use it when necessary (Tran, 2011: 159).

The preliminary agreement of March 6, 1946 reflected that strategy of compromise. Because in the situation that the country just gained independence, the force that stood up to fight the French and Japan was just a peasant clothed with rudimentary spear weapons. Meanwhile, the regular armed forces had only one armed propaganda army for the liberation of the army, established in Vu Nhai - Cao Bang, with the number of just over 30 people (Dinh, 2013) how to liberate or protect a country more than 1,600 km long? In addition, after the August Revolution (1945), Vietnam had to deal with enemy attacks from the South to the North, from outside to within. All threats directly to the sovereignty of the country, which threaten to destroy the fruits of the August Revolution (1945) just won. So it is necessary and right to postpone peace to build forces. At that time, there was also a critical opinion about the fervor of the revolutionary spirit to attack, Ho Chi Minh explained: "We need peace to build our

country, so we have pressed our hearts to make concessions to keep peace” (Ho, 2011, vol. 7: 28).

He generalizes the two basic issues of detente:

"We make peace with the France to:

1- Avoid disadvantages: must be isolated to fight at the same time with many reactionary forces (French colonialists, White Chinese, domestic anti-revolutionaries), they will be cast into a block and helped by British and American imperialism to fight against us while the forces of peace, freedom and progress in the world (such as the Soviet Union, the communist movement in China and France, the colonial revolution) cannot directly help us.

2- Preserving strength to take a break and consolidate the new acquired position, reorganize the revolutionary contingent, supplement staff, foster and consolidate the movement. In short, prepare carefully, in order to have a good chance to move to the new revolution period” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1978: 26).

The postponed views in the early days after the August Revolution (1945) were both the beginning and a vivid testament to the correctness and ingenuity of Ho Chi Minh in defending the country's sovereignty. That creative thinking is a combination of principle and flexibility carried out with a unique treatment method, the method of firm in objectives, flexible in strategies and tactics

General Vo Nguyen Giap - legendary general, military genius, close and excellent student of President Ho Chi Minh - in his career, General Giap never forget Uncle Ho's profound teaching: "Firm in objectives, flexible in strategies and tactics". "The goal of national independence and national sovereignty is immutable, needs to be grasped, it is the principle, it is the strategy. On the basis of that principle, the immutability that applies strategies, depending on the specific situation to respond. All my life, I remember Uncle Ho's advice, every time I have trouble I remember it. How deep is that” (Vo, 2006: 513).

According to Ho Chi Minh, concessions or postponement is a strategy, from the preliminary Agreement 6-3-1946, to the Provisional Agreement on September 14, 1946, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam headed by President Ho Chi Minh kept firmly to make concessions to avoid a possible war. But the more we conceded the encroachment by the French colonialists because they wanted to invade our country again, under the leadership of the Government and President Ho Chi Minh, our people stood up to wage a long, all-out, comprehensive resistance war determined to defeat the invading French invaders. To win, President Ho Chi Minh analyzed the weaknesses and strengths in the force comparison between the enemy and our country: "Even though the enemies are so strong at first, and our people are so weak, we still bravely resist, still fight for many victories, and we're sure that we will win in the end” (Ho, 2011, vol 7: .30). He also believed in the strategy of the resistance war, first of all "It's because we have a righteousness, because our army is brave, our people are united and strong, because we are supported by the French people and the world's democracy. It is also the right strategy (Ho Chi Minh emphasizes)” (Ho, 2011, vol 7: 30).

He explained: "The resistance must be long-term, because our land is narrow, our people are few, our country is poor, we have to prepare for a long time and must have comprehensive preparation, of the entire people. We must always remember that the French were, compared to us, a rather strong enemy, they had the American and British help” (Ho, 2011, vol. 7: 28). Therefore, in the strategic thinking of President Ho Chi Minh was to attack, preserve and build forces, turn weak into strong, step up the guerrilla war strategy in the regions behind the enemy; fighting the enemy mainly by tactics and surprise, not sure to win, then not fight. Writer: "Before, we had to deceive the enemy and fight. Now the enemy will let us fight. That is a very good opportunity for us. To win, we must be positive, automatic, secretive,

quick, determined, and persistent. If we are sure that we will win, we will fight” (Ho, 2011, vol.7: 242). Thus, since 1951, President Ho Chi Minh has stated a new strategic determination: if we are sure that we will win, we will fight, it means that if we not sure that we will win or not, we will not fight. Later this strategic determination became the motto of action of the entire army and all our people in the resistance war against the French colonialism, especially in the Winter-Spring War 1953 - 1954 and the Dien Bien Phu campaign.

President Ho Chi Minh's lessons in the long-term resistance war during the resistance war against the French colonial invasion (1945-1954) are also important instructions in the current work of protecting the sovereignty of sea and islands, such as: " If we are sure that we will win, we will fight, it means that if we not sure that we will win or not, we will not fight " according to the long-term strategy, fight for a long time, gradually build up and develop forces. President Ho Chi Minh's resistance period was by no means an indefinitely long one, but it developed dialectically in phases. In 1951, he proactively mapped out each development stage of the resistance, on that basis actively implemented his strategy, proceeding to fight for sure, " If we are sure that we will win, we will fight, it means that if we not sure that we will win or not, we will not fight”and win in the end. And he also pointed out the dialectic development of each revolutionary period:

“We have to understand: this stage is involved with another stage, it follows the previous stage and it causes the foundations for the next stage.

There are many new transformations born from one period to another. Its transformation occurred during a period.

It is possible to consider the general situation and determine each big stage, but it is impossible to separate each stage as decisively as a person cuts a cake” (Ho, 2011, vol. 7: 31).

Therefore, in order to successfully implement the ideology of the long-term resistance war, it is necessary to base on the changes of the world and domestic situation “A long or short period must depend on the situation in the country and in the world, depending on the changes in enemy forces and our forces” (Ho , 2011, vol.7: 31).

Even when giving prominence to the issue of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, President Ho Chi Minh always placed the Vietnamese revolution in an organic close relationship with the world revolution; combined national strength with era power. He affirmed the important meaning of combining the element of national strength with the help and support from outside, he said: “Although the country of Vietnam is trampled under the bloody heel of the heterosexuals, The national spirit of the Vietnamese people is forever not destroyed, on the other hand also teaches us that: Without a unifying power of the country, without strong outside help, The liberation campaign is difficult to succeed, especially nowadays, we are facing the two most evil invading robbers of the East and the West, the more we need the consensus of the people, the more we need help” (Ho, 2011, vol.3: 480). President Ho Chi Minh drew from the experience of the patriotic movements in Vietnam and the world, and from very early on, he realized that the struggle of the colonial countries, including Vietnam, for independence could not be won if it was conducted alone and did not place it in the revolutionary cause of the world people.

The strength of the era is also the progress of the scientific and technical revolution, the development of the production force, reflecting the historical development and the movement of the world, so according to Ho Chi Minh, to expand international solidarity under the viewpoint "Everyone who loves the country and makes progress is my friend" (Ho, 2011, vol. 13: 453).

Studying the thought of Ho Chi Minh's Resistance War, we encounter a methodology used as

the basis to consider, analyze, evaluate development trends of the world situation and analyze revolutionary wars of countries affect international relations. A method that he has summarized in the forties of the twentieth century: "Must look far, think carefully." It means mastering the basic characteristics of the world situation in a certain historical context as an objective basis for properly solving international problems; and based on the actual situation to properly solve the problems posed for the Vietnamese revolution, consistent with the inevitable relationship between our country's war mission and the general situation of the world. His strategic thinking is based on scientific and complete analysis of objective conditions, correctly assessing force correlation to propose a method to change the force comparison in our favor. "Even though the enemies are so strong at first, and our people are so weak, we still bravely resist, still fight for many victories, and we're sure that we will win in the end" (Ho, 2011, vol.7: 34). Since then, he asserted: "from the beginning, our strategy won against the enemy strategy" (Ho, 2011, vol.7: 33).

Regarding the style of sovereignty protection in general, the sovereignty of sea and islands in particular of Ho Chi Minh, is shown in all fields of his activities, forming a coherent whole, with scientific, ethical and competent values. America, including some main contents are: thinking style, working style, leadership style, expression style, behavior style and living style. According to Ho Chi Minh, to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands effectively, there must be a scientific, revolutionary and modern thinking; independence, autonomy, creativity; harmonious, flexible, reasonable.

Effective policies and activities to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands must be based on investigation, research and collection of information and data to grasp the reality of the situation. "Must understand: If the Party understands the situation, it will set the right policy. If the Party wants to understand clearly, party members and cadres must investigate and report clearly the situation of each commune, district, province, and zone. If you do not know the situation and set a policy, the result is "a square peg in a round hole", not matching at all. Third: Reason and practice must always go together" (Ho, 2011, vol. 5: 307). Working style must always be innovative, creative, not the old way. "Conservative thought is like ropes tied to one's arms and legs, that needs to be thrown away," he said. To progress, you must have a strong spirit, dare to think and dare to do it" (Ho, 2011, vol. 13: 340).

Thus, the practice shows that protecting sovereignty over the islands according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is to uphold the principle of "immutability" as independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity is an inviolable spiritual right. To protect sovereignty in general, sovereignty of sea and islands in particular according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology is to know how to combine national strength with the power of the times, consolidate the great national unity bloc; decisively to fight to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands, but with the motto and method of skillful, flexible, constantly improving the material and spiritual life of the people; Practicing democracy, building a thrifty and integrity lifestyle, requires each person to their country, the nation must be "Be faithful to the country, faithful to the people", for everyone to "love people, live meaningfully"

## **2. Applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology, methods and moral style to the protection of sea and island sovereignty**

Ho Chi Minh's thought, method ethical style on the protection of sovereignty over islands is a system of views on ensuring national interests, such as national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unification, welfare and freedom of the people, is significant in applying and protecting sovereignty over sea and islands today.

Historically, the Communist Party of Vietnam has applied Ho Chi Minh's moral ideology to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands, with two particularly important milestones. 1/ May 1988, Politburo term VI issued Resolution No. 13 on "tasks and foreign policy in the

new situation" with the theme "maintaining peace and economic development"; 2/ The 7th Party Congress in June 1991, the Vietnamese Communist Party determined to take Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought as the ideological foundation and guideline for its actions. That is completely correct and consistent with the development of the Vietnamese revolution and the world history process. Congress VII created a creative application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology to quickly create a peaceful and stable international environment and proposed a policy of diversification and multilateral foreign relations and cooperation equally and mutually beneficial with all countries regardless of different political and social regimes; affirming stronger with the statement "Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries in the world community, striving for peace, independence and development". These are important directions to protect island sovereignty.

Looking back at the situation of protecting sovereignty of the sea and islands in 1988 shows that, in the extremely complicated international context, China has continuously invaded the islands and reefs of Vietnam in the Spratly archipelago: Fiery Cross Reef (31-01-1988), Cuarteron Reef (February 18, 1988), Gaven Reef (February 26, 1988), Hugh Reef (February 28, 1988), Subi Reef (March 23 -1988) (General Staff - Operations Department, 2005). Facing China's overwhelming military power, they continuously invaded a number of islands in The Spratly Islands areas of Vietnam, Vietnam failed to protect some of its islands and reefs in the Spratly Islands areas. This is a profound historical lesson about Vietnam's protection of sea and island sovereignty.

Faced with that situation, applying President Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical style on the protection of sovereignty over the islands, on May 20, 1988, the Politburo issued Resolution No. 13 / NQ-TW on foreign policy in the new situation with the theme of maintaining peace and economic development. The resolution has applied some Ho Chi Minh's views on "increasing the number of friends and decreasing that of foes", "diversifying relations on the principle of respect for independence, sovereignty, mutual benefit" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2000: 324), raising the issue of sovereignty, protecting sovereignty, considering it as a strategic goal and also the highest interests of the Party and people of Vietnam in the current revolutionary period.

Resolution 13 of the Politburo dated May 20, 1988, demonstrating the creative application of Ho Chi Minh's ideology of moral style to the protection of the sovereignty of Vietnam's sea and islands in the new situation, at the same time reflecting too process of renewing the Party's thinking on many key foreign affairs, protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands such as assessment of the world situation and international trends; on contemporary international political relations; on external goals; on security and development; on international solidarity and gathering forces in the international system of Vietnam. The late Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach assessed, "The Politburo's Resolution 13 on foreign affairs is a dramatic renewal of thinking in assessing the world situation, in setting targets and redirecting our entire foreign strategy." (Nguyen, 1990: 9).

Since mid-1988, implementing Resolution 13 of the Politburo, the Central Party and Government decided to adjust the foreign policy; continue to strengthen the defense of islands; actively upgrade defense capabilities, improve the naval forces' combat capacity, consolidate the command post at Cam Ranh Bay, build an air base in Phan Rang to promptly support Truong Sa and patrol at sea by plane. At the same time, the Politburo also directed the construction of the DK1 rig - houses, protecting the underground area in the southern continental shelf of the Central Executive Committee (2017).

National sovereignty over the sea - is an organic part of national sovereignty. Protecting sovereignty over sea and islands is to protect national interests - a core goal according to Ho Chi Minh's moral ideology. To protect the sovereignty over the sea and islands according to

Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical style is to build the foreign policy and diplomatic activities of Vietnam must put the interests of the nation first and foremost; independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity is an inviolable spiritual right. During the renovation period, and integrating the foreign policy for the sake of the nation, is reflected in the document of the 10th National Congress of the National Representatives, through the foreign policy of the Party " deeper and more fully integrated with global, regional and bilateral economic institutions, taking the interests of the country as the ultimate goal" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006: 113-114). In resolving sovereignty disputes with neighboring countries, promoting the spirit of friendship, resolving conflicts to resolve conflicts by negotiating and negotiating.

Since 2009, China has made a claim "Nine-dash line" ... and continuously caused tensions in the South China Sea area with acts of crashing, arresting fishing boats, cutting Petro Vietnam's Binh Minh 02 ship cable is conducting a seismic survey on Vietnam's central continental shelf on May 26, 2011; and most importantly, illegally placing the Hai Duong oil rig - 981 (Haiyang Shiyou - 981) along with many armed ships, military ships and escort aircraft in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Vietnam (from May 1 - July 15, 2014).

Although China has disregarded the ethics and laws, the Vietnam-China friendship has illegally placed and placed oil and gas exploration rigs in the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Vietnam. This action by China not only seriously violated Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereignty rights and jurisdiction, adversely affected Vietnam-China relations, but also seriously threatened to peace, stability and security in the region (VV Thanh, 2014), but Vietnam still persists on the path of peaceful struggle, "urgently calls on ASEAN countries, countries in the world, international individuals and organizations continue to speak out against the above-mentioned serious infringement and support the legal and legitimate request of Vietnam." (Government e-newspaper, 2014). And most recently, China brought China's Geological Marine probe 4 into Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), from June 14-16, 2020, at one point just 200 nautical miles of Vietnam's coast and roughly 182 nautical miles from the Vietnamese island of Phú Quý; at the same time carried out a series of aggressive activities in the South China Sea in the context of countries focusing on coping with Covid-19 (Vu, 2020).

Thus, properly and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology on the protection of the sovereignty of sea and islands of Vietnam, the Party and Government always affirm that the sovereignty over the sea and islands is sacred and inviolable, inviolable, this is the principle of "firm in objectives". In the face of a series of aggressive actions by China, the Party, State and people have been extremely restrained, expressed all goodwill, used all channels of dialogue, diplomacy, persistently fought for peace to counter and demanded that China immediately withdraw the drilling rig and armed ships and military ships out of Vietnamese waters.

Applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical style in the fight to protect the sovereignty of the sea and islands, our methods of fighting are both flexible, clever and ensure strategic goals, solid bravery decisively, quickly and promptly to respond appropriately to each specific situation. Consistently fight to protect sovereignty of sea and islands with peaceful solutions, by synergy: political struggle, diplomacy, legal evidence, history and prepare plans to bring to international courts when needed. We persistently fight by methods of avoiding peace, dialogue, and conflict ... but when sovereignty is violated, we are ready to bring back with just the right to defend. This is a good way to handle the relationship of independence, sovereignty and maintain peace and stability. Vietnam has been trying at the highest level to maintain a peaceful and stable environment to build and defend the country.

For China, Vietnam always followed Uncle Ho's admonition "Both comrades and brothers" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, vol.14: 82), attaching importance to relations with China within the framework of cooperation, comprehensive strategic partnership, keeping peace, harmony, building friendship and solidarity with the commitments signed with China. The fight to protect sovereignty over the sea and islands must be based on the 1982 United Nations International Covenant on the Law of the Sea, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), proceeding to a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC); In addition, with China, it is necessary to base on the 6-Article Agreement on principles of sea dispute settlement that the two countries have signed. That is the legal basis in Vietnam's struggle to protect sovereignty over sea and islands.

Applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethical style in the struggle to protect sovereignty of sea and islands in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to take advantage of international support to protect Vietnam's sovereignty over sea and islands. With the motto of multilateralization and diversification of sovereignty protection of the islands, propaganda and advocacy are carried out in order to make Vietnamese people and the world understand clearly legal bases and historical bases, and compliance with the United Nations Convention on sovereignty over sea and islands of Vietnam; know well historical facts about Vietnam's sea and island sovereignty has been violated.

Standing on the principle of "firm in objectives" affirms that independence, sovereignty over islands is sacred and inviolable. Vietnam has made public and transparent its position, respecting international law, especially the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea ( DOC); persistently advocate for peaceful settlement, do not use force and threaten to use force in sovereignty disputes over sea and islands; internationalization of territorial sovereignty disputes; bring cases of infringement of the sovereignty of Vietnamese sea and islands to international legal institutions when necessary.

Applying Ho Chi Minh's ethical methods and styles "Must look broadly and carefully" to develop relations and take advantage of the support of all major countries, on the basis of common interests in security security, freedom of navigation, economic interests in principle, avoid hasty actions; avoid self-esteem and miss opportunities; avoid delusions, expect outside; must be alert to have short and long-term smart responses; effective use of the art of diplomacy of the heart of Ho Chi Minh - persuade people, conquer people, enlist people with reason and morality.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The protection of territorial sovereignty in general, sovereignty of the sea and islands in particular is the result of the struggle to build and defend the country of the Vietnamese people according to the idea of " The Southern country's mountain and river the Southern Emperor in-habits". In the Ho Chi Minh era, continuing that heroic tradition, as He taught: The Hung kings have built the country, we must protect the country together, generations of Vietnamese people always remain firmly "immutable" principle: independence, territorial sovereignty is an inviolable spiritual right, the highest value of all values of the nation.

Historical experience shows that any country or nation that wants to survive, develop and keep pace with the times, must have principles and philosophies to exist and develop. This principle is only correct, when on the one hand comes from the reality of the country, from the personality of the nation, from the earnest desire of the people, and on the other hand, it must be in accordance with the inevitable development law of society. Protection of independence and territorial sovereignty is not only the core issue in the history of national

construction and defense, but also the development path of the Vietnamese revolution not only in the history of national liberation, but also in the integration era.

In the current international situation, opportunities and challenges are always intertwined and integrated, in opportunities include challenges and sometimes overcoming new challenges find opportunities. The bigger the opportunity, the more the challenge; Overcoming great challenges will have great opportunities. Therefore, in the cause of protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands, according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology and moral style, it requires insight, foresight and political bravery, high determination of the Party and State and the efforts of the entire people, to increasingly limit difficulties and challenges; turn challenges into opportunities for effective implementation of the protection of sea and island sovereignty. The Party and State of Vietnam actively implement the foreign policy of multilateralism and diversification, contributing to breaking the siege and embargo, trying to maintain a peaceful environment, making the most of external resources to build and defend the Fatherland. To comply with his willingness to be friends with all the democratic countries that Ho Chi Minh has always been in mind with since the first days of the nation's founding. Today, Vietnam is truly a friend, a reliable partner of all countries, and a responsible member of the international community.

Today, in the face of complicated developments, the issue of protecting the sovereignty of Vietnam's sea and islands according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, method, and moral style is standing on the fundamental and universal stance of mankind on morality, humanity, a good future that all the peoples on this planet are aiming: expanding international relations, multifaceted cooperation, bilateral and multilateralism with countries and groups. international and regional organizations on the principle of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, not interfering in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. This is the right motto for the sustainable development of the nation and the country. Since then, it shows that the protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands according to Ho Chi Minh's moral ideology is natural and becomes increasingly urgent and meaningful than ever.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to express the anonymous research participants for their willingness to have taken part in this study. Additionally, our sincere gratitude should go to other relevant parties who have given comments and supported us during our study. Without their unconditional help and support, we would have never been able to finish this study.

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

### **6. REFERENCES**

- [1] Central Executive Committee. (2017). *Resolution No. 19-NQ / TW of the Politburo of the Party Central Committee on the protection of the underground area in the southern continental shelf*. Retrieved from <https://tulieuvankien.dangcongsan.vn/van-kien-tulieu-ve-dang/hoi-nghi-bch-trung-uong/khoa-xii/nghi-quyet-so-19-nqtw-ngay-25102017-hoi-nghi-lan-thu-sau-ban-chap-hanh-trung-uong-dang-khoa-xii-ve-tiep-tuc-doi-moi-va-569>
- [2] Communist Party of Vietnam. (1978). *Document of the Party, vol 1*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing House.
- [3] Communist Party of Vietnam. (2006). *Document of the Tenth National Congress of Delegates*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing House.
- [4] Department. (1945 - 2005). *Vietnamese for People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi*

- [5] Department. (2005). *Vietnamese for People's Army (1945 - 2005)*. Hanoi: Publishing House.
- [6] Dinh, N. V. (2013). General Vo Nguyen Giap with the establishment of the Vietnam Youth Liberation Army. Retrieved from <http://baocaobang.vn>.
- [7] Government e-newspaper. (2014). Full text of Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's speech at the 24th ASEAN Summit. Retrieved from <http://baodientu.chinhphu.vn/Tin-noi-bat/Toan-van-phat-bieu-cua-Thu-tuong-Nguyen-Tan-Dung-tai-Hoi-nghi-Cap-cao-ASEAN-lan-thu-24/199019.vgp>, October 14, 2020.
- [8] Ho, C. M. (2011). *Complete, vol. 3*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [9] Ho, C. M. (2011). *Complete, vol. 5*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [10] Ho, C. M. (2011). *Complete, vol. 7*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [11] Ho, C. M. (2011). *Complete, vol. 13*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [12] Ho, C. M. (2011). *Complete, vol. 14*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [13] Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (2000). *Vietnamese Foreign Affairs in Ho Chi Minh era*. Hanoi: National Political Publishing House.
- [14] Ministry of General Staff - Department of Operations. (2005). *History of the War Department (1945 - 2005)*. Hanoi: Publisher People's Army.
- [15] Nguyen, C. T. (1990). "Changes in the World and Our Thinking", Journal of International Relations, No. 1, January.
- [16] Tran, D. T. (1994). Stories about the life of President Ho Chi Minh. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [17] Tran, N. (2011). Ho Chi Minh genius thinker. Hanoi: National Political Publishing house.
- [18] United Nations Charter. (1945). Retrieved from [http://hcrc.hcmulaw.edu.vn/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=13:hinchng-lien-hip-quc&catid=7:cac-vn-kin-nhan-quyn-quc-t-c-bn-&Itemid=19](http://hcrc.hcmulaw.edu.vn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13:hinchng-lien-hip-quc&catid=7:cac-vn-kin-nhan-quyn-quc-t-c-bn-&Itemid=19)
- [19] Vo, N. G. (2006). Studying and following Ho Chi Minh ideology. Hanoi: People's Public Security Publishing House
- [20] Vo.V. T. (2014). The Government listens to and discusses the situation of the South China Sea, Tuoi Tre online, Retrieved from <https://tuoitre.vn/chinh-phu-nghe-va-thao-luan-ve-tinh-hinh-bien-dong-615279.htm>
- [21] Vu, N. (2020). Vietnam spoke up about the Chinese probe in the South China Sea, Retrieved from <https://vnexpress.net/viet-nam-len-tieng-ve-tau-tham-do-trung-quoc-o-bien-dong-4124527.html>